

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Master Plan for the Regional Irrigation Distribution System (RIDS) for the Lower West Coast Region is to develop a program to supply enough water to meet the projected (year 2020) urban irrigation demand for future growth in Lee and Collier counties. Although the area has been progressive in developing alternative supply sources including reclaimed water, these sources will not be adequate to meet future demands. Also, because many of the utilities in the service area have their own discrete infrastructure, there has been no optimization of the resource on a regional basis. Therefore, it has been determined by the South Florida Water Management District (District) that a master plan is required to evaluate these needs.

The RIDS project was one of the recommendations identified in the District's *Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan* (Water Supply Plan) completed in April 2000. The Water Supply Plan recommended the RIDS to evaluate the "feasibility of constructing regional irrigation water distribution system(s) and other options to meet the growing urban irrigation demands of this area".

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the RIDS Master Plan Project.

A series of memoranda were submitted throughout the course of the study in order to ensure that all utilities, local government agencies, project team members, the District and other stakeholders were aware of and involved in the progress of the project.